

**REMARKS**

Claim 3-18 are pending in the application.

Claims 3-18 were previously allowed.

Claims 3, 5, 6, 9 and 13 have been amended, as set forth herein.

Claim 12 has been canceled, without prejudice.

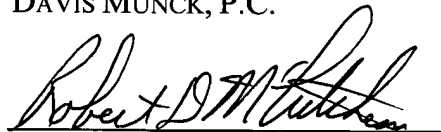
Applicant is filing concurrently herewith a request for continued examination. Applicant has amended the claims, as set forth above.

Applicant respectfully submits that the currently pending Claims 311, and 13-18 are allowable over the art of record.

Should it facilitate allowance of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional payment that may be due or credit any overpayment to Davis Munck Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Date: 2/17/2004

Respectfully submitted,  
DAVIS MUNCK, P.C.



Robert D. McCutcheon  
Registration No. 38,717

P.O. Box 802432  
Dallas, Texas 75380  
Tel.: (972) 628-3600  
Fax: (972) 628-3616  
E-mail: [rmccutcheon@davismunck.com](mailto:rmccutcheon@davismunck.com)